

## House Resolution 818

By: Representatives Bennett of the 94<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 136<sup>th</sup>, Alexander of the 66<sup>th</sup>, Frazier of the 126<sup>th</sup>, Schofield of the 60<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Dr. Queen Blessing Itua for her work with Global Empowerment Movement
- 2 (GEM) and recommending that the Georgia State Legislative Black Caucus and the Georgia
- 3 Department of Economic Development recognize Dr. Queen Blessing Itua and the African
- 4 Union Sixth Region USA Foundation; and for other purposes.
- 5 WHEREAS, Karen Bennett, Chair, Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, commends Dr. Queen
- 6 Blessing O. Itua, Founder/Executive President, Global Empowerment Movement (GEM);
- 7 the Lead Coordinator of African Diaspora Day since March, 2016, and the Founder/Chair
- 8 of African Union Sixth Region USA Foundation duly registered in the State of Georgia since
- 9 2018 to promote the State and the Atlanta area as the gateway for business with Africa and
- 10 the port of Savannah as the main center for cargo shipment of goods between Africa and the
- 11 United States; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the mission of African Union Sixth Region USA Foundation is helping the
- 13 African diaspora, as well as individual organizations, maintain order/unity and to be effective
- 14 in the society and to encourage continuous development of international partnerships which
- 15 support the emergence of Africa's private sector, promote direct foreign investment in Africa,
- 16 and leverage the imbalances in Africa's growing economy; and
- 17 WHEREAS, it is in the economic interest of this state to promote and strengthen mutually
- 18 beneficial ties with the African diaspora and nations of Africa, and the Georgia State
- 19 Legislative Black Caucus, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, African
- 20 Decent/Union Diplomats/Consulate Generals, and historically black colleges and universities
- 21 are encouraged to promote and strengthen mutually beneficial ties with African Union Sixth
- 22 Region USA and nations of Africa to develop a partnership that encourages continuous
- 23 development of international partnerships which support the emergence of Africa's private
- 24 sector, promotes direct foreign investment in Africa; and

25 WHEREAS, African Union Sixth Region USA Foundation is the platform to facilitate:

26 (1) Promoting of a good relationship for mutual interest and strengthen mutually  
27 beneficial ties with nations of Africa and persons of African descent in Georgia and in  
28 the United States;

29 (2) Promoting social integration of the African diaspora, including Haiti, Jamaica, the  
30 Bahamas, and other Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latino, and black communities worldwide;

31 (3) Fostering personal, professional, and socioeconomic growth of Africans in the  
32 diaspora;

33 (4) Providing the platform for Africans to come together and to showcase the rich  
34 heritage and culture of the African diaspora via displays of African music, arts, food,  
35 films, fashion, etc.;

36 (5) Promoting business forums and related networking, job creation, investment  
37 opportunities, cultural diversity, tourism, and food;

38 (6) Leveraging the imbalances in Africa's growing economy via African development,  
39 international partnerships, and direct foreign investment in Africa;

40 (7) Bridging the gap between descendants of Africa and to foster personal, professional,  
41 and socioeconomic growth of Africans in the diaspora and in the motherland, as well as  
42 in Haiti, Jamaica, Bahamas, and other Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latino, and black  
43 communities worldwide; and

44 (8) Empowering the underprivileged, impoverished, voiceless, vulnerable African People  
45 In Need (APIN), with a focus on impoverished, economically disadvantaged, abuse, and  
46 abandoned Single Mothers and Children In Distress (SMACID) in our communities, as  
47 well as foster the well-being of families and disenfranchised, vulnerable women and  
48 children plagued by the crimes of forced prostitution, human trafficking, and domestic  
49 spousal abuse.

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
51 the members of this body encourage the Georgia Department of Economic Development, to  
52 the extent authorized by law and subject to available funds, to:

53 (1) Work in collaboration with Dr. Queen Blessing Itua, GEM, and African Union Sixth  
54 Region USA Foundation to promote, encourage, and facilitate the establishment of the  
55 Global Empowerment Movement Center (GEM Center) - African Empowerment  
56 Foundation aimed at empowering the underprivileged, impoverished, voiceless,  
57 vulnerable African People In Need (APIN), as well as providing microenterprise  
58 opportunity programs for success by equipping families in our communities with  
59 practical life skills training programs, such as baking, jewelry making, sewing, etc.;

60       (2) Foster the well-being of families and disenfranchised, vulnerable women and  
61       children plagued by the crimes of forced prostitution, human trafficking, and domestic  
62       spousal abuse;  
63       (3) Promote the education and enrichment of African business and professional leaders  
64       and the training of different professionals and health care professionals;  
65       (4) Promote business leaders in the use of modern technology in diverse areas, including  
66       agriculture, health care, at facilities in Africa, Georgia, and the United States;  
67       (5) Facilitate capacity development to train and enrich African legislators and members  
68       of parliament about the policy-making process in Africa and the United States; and  
69       (6) Facilitate capacity development to train and enrich African skill discovery,  
70       development, and deployment, as well as women empowerment and youth enrichment.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
72 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available to Karen Bennett, Chair,  
73 Georgia Legislative Black Caucus; the Commissioner of Economic Development; and  
74 Dr. Queen Blessing Itua.